夏目友人帳

なつめゆうじんちょう

緑川ゆき

みどりかわ

It seemed like others couldn't see them, so they were probably beings called "ayakashi."

Rustle Rustle

Ever since I was little, I would sometimes see strange things.

MUMU.

YOU CAN ENJOY EATING IT WHEN WE GET HOME, SO LEAVE IT CLOSED OR IT MIGHT FALL.

YOU'RE STILL STARING AT THE *DAIFUKU FROM THE NEW STORE, SENSEI?

OOOH, LOOK NATSUME.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU STARE AT IT, YOU WON'T TIRE OF ITS BEAUTIFUL FORM.

*TL/N: A rice cake stuffed with bean jam.

OH BOY...

AH, DAIFUKU...

TOSS

FALLS

HAAA!

TRIPS

YOU'RE RIGHT—

AH!

...I'M PRETTY SURE IT WASN'T LIKE THIS THE LAST TIME I WAS HERE.

...

...THE GROUND IS FULL OF HOLES. WHAT HAPPENED? IT'S RUINED.

DON'T SAY SUCH NEGATIVE THINGS, BOY!

Rustle

Not here.

IT HASN'T FALLEN INTO A PUDDLE OR POTHOLE?

Rustle

Rustle

SENSEI, CAN YOU FEEL THAT?

Glint

LET'S GO HOME.

AH...

WAIT! I STILL HAVEN'T FOUND MY DAIFUKU!

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

SOMETHING IS NEARBY...

WAH! SOMEONE'S COLLAPSED!

SHOCK

DAMN YOU, AKE...!

STANDS

Shock

UP

MUMU, A HUMAN CHILD...?

An ayakashi...?

OH. I'M SORRY, HUMAN CHILD. HAVE YOU SEEN AN AYAKASHI AROUND HERE? WEARING A BEAUTIFUL KIMONO?

...NO.

I SEE. SO HE RAN AWAY AGAIN...

HM, YOU MUST BE A RATHER UNUSUAL BOY TO BE ABLE TO SEE ME.

I'LL JUST GO NOW...

SORRY, BUT I'VE DECIDED NOT TO RECKLESSLY INVOLVE MYSELF WITH AYAKASHI.

...NO.

MAY I ASK YOU TO BE A REFEREE?

AH, RIGHT! SURELY YOU'LL BE IMPARTIAL!

HEY, LOOK. THE SURROUNDING AREA IS FILLED WITH HOLES, RIGHT?

AH, YOU'RE FLUFFIER THAN I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE...

L-Let me go! I'm being captured...

Wahhh!

Jumps

Don't say such heartless things!

Please, just hear me out.

...

AKE MADE HALF OF THESE.

...

SO? YOU WANT TO HEAR MORE, DON'T YOU?

WHAT? YOU?

I MADE THE OTHER HALF.

RUSTLE

OI! WHAT ARE YOU FUSSING ABOUT NOW?

OKAY, I GOT IT!

IF YOU LISTEN TO MY STORY, I'LL GIVE YOU THE DAIFUKU I PICKED UP EARLIER.

AH!

FINE! JUST HEAR HIM OUT, NATSUME!

OOH, I'M GRATEFUL.

Sheesh.

...

OOH, THAT'S A STRANGE LOOKING OWL.

Grrr...

Rawr!

Scramble

YOU GOAT BASTARD, GIVE ME MY DAI-FUKU BACK!

WE READ ABOUT THE WIND,

AND LEARN ABOUT THE COLORS OF THE EARTH.

AKE AND I... STUDY UNDER MASTER MIKATAKE, WHO MANAGES THIS AREA.

...

LATELY, THE MASTER...

SOMETIMES, WE CRUSH INVADERS.

YES. WE...

AND IT'S BETWEEN YOU AND THAT AKE.

...HAS BEEN IN POOR HEALTH.

IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S TRYING TO DECIDE ON HIS SUCCESSOR.

I'M JUST AN OUTSIDER. THERE'S NO WAY I COULD HELP.

NO. BECAUSE YOU ***ARE*** AN OUTSIDER, YOU WILL SURELY BE IMPARTIAL.

...

WE'VE TAKEN THIS CHANCE TO DECIDE WHO'S THE STRONGEST.

EH?

EVERYONE AROUND HERE IS ROOTING FOR AKE.

AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M SMALL AND DELICATE.

AKE IS...

STRONG, FULL OF DIGNITY, BEAUTIFUL...

AND HONORING THE MASTER, I DEFINITELY WON'T LOSE TO HIM.

THAT'S WHY...

WHEN IT COMES TO WANTING TO PROTECT THIS LAND,

BUT...

BUT!

RUSTLE

Gasp

I WANT TO WIN.

Will he be okay...?

BUT... LATELY, I'VE HEARD THAT BIG AYAKASHI ARE GETT'NG WEAK

EH...

YEAH.

WE L STENED TO HIS STORY, AS PROMISED TIME TO GO HOME, NAT-SUME

IS THAT YOU, AKE?! WAIT!

SWOOSH

AH..

I SEE..

THERE'S NO HELPING IT THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WITH TIME.

I'm back!

Welcome back

I BOUGHT SOME DAI-FUKU AT THE NEW STORE.

OH, THANK YOU. I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT

AH, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL BOX.

IT'S A MUSIC BOX.

HEY.. CAN I LOOK INSIDE?

YEAH, BUT IT DOESN'T WORK ANYMORE.

IT'S VERY OLD AND BROKEN. BUT IT WAS SUCH A N CE SONG.

FUFU, I WANTED TO HEAR IT

FUFU, SURE!

EH?

CAN I FIDDLE WITH THIS FOR A BIT?

HEY...

Rattle

HM

Try to pull this out too

Shut up Seaso.

AH. IT CAME OUT THAT MIGHT WORK.

WE'LL TAKE OUT THE FELTED PART FIRST

FWIP

IT MIGHT PLAY AGAIN IF WE REMOVE IT

WHENEVER I LIFT IT, IT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING SMALL IS ROLLING ABOUT

Ummm...

YOU SEEM TROUBLED, BOY

WEIRD. IT'S STILL MAKING THAT SOUND...

RATTLE

RATTLE

THOUGH YOU'RE A HUMAN, YOU LISTENED TO MY STORY AS PROMISED YOU REALLY ARE WORTHY OF BEING OUR REFEREE.

GAHHH! YOU FOLLOWED US?!

EH.

IF YOU FULFILL MY REQUEST,

I WILL REPAIR THIS MUSIC BOX FOR YOU.

THAT'S CHEAP! DON'T YOU HAVE ANY BETTER TERMS?

HM...

WELL, JUST COME IN FOR NOW

YOU KNOW YOUR STUFF TOO WELL!

OH NO, NATSUME! HE GOT TO ME!

YOU SEEMED TO LIKE THIS DAIFUKU.

YOU SUCK AS A BODY-GUARD!

Rattle

Rattle

SENSEI, YOU CAN'T-!

Rustle

SHINMACHI DAIFUKU

*TL/N: Shiro means white, while ake means red.

BEAN-SPROUT NII-SAN.

PLEASE LET ME CALL YOU NII-SAN FROM NOW ON.

AND ..

OWL NII-SAN.

DON'T CALL ME THAT!!!

PLEASE CALL ME *SHIRO.

I'M SORRY FOR CAUSING YOU TROUBLE, BOY

I'M RELIEVED

I WANTED TO FIGHT WITH AKE BUT HE'S ALWAYS RUNNING AWAY

HM? AKE DIDN'T AGREE TO THE FIGHT...?

HOWEVER, NOW THAT A REFEREE HAS BEEN DECIDED, CHALLENGING HIM TO A FIGHT WILL BE MUCH EASIER

THAT'S WHY..

YEAH, AKE IS A GENTLE GUY

IF I CAN WIN WITH THESE WEAK LIMBS.

AND I WANT TO FIND OUT...

AH, NOTHING.

ANYWAY, I WANT TO FIGHT

Eh?

If I could talk to this Ake, I might be able to settle this quickly.

IT'S HARD TO BE A REFEREE. I DON'T THINK I CAN DO IT

This is

...

I WANT TO FIND OUT IF I CAN BE SOMEONE USEFUL TO THE MASTER.

COWARD! WHY WON'T YOU FIGHT ME?

AKE, COME OUT!

Thus, we undertook this job reluctantly.

AKE!

But there was no progress

CAN YOU TAKE US TO THIS AKE'S PLACE TOMORROW?

I'd be glad to!

...

HE'S BEEN RUNNING AROUND BY HIMSELF

Gumy!

THIS GUY IS GOOD AT RUNNING AWAY..

AKE, YOU'RE EMBAR-RASSING ME!

HE EXISTS! OF COURSE HE EXISTS!

He's not an imaginary friend, is he?

DOES THIS AKE GUY REALLY EXIST?

SAY...

WHAT IS IT, BEAN-SPROUT NII-SAN?

Don't call me that.

Whisper
Whisper
OH, ISN'T THAT SHIRO-SAMA?
Uh.
OH, IT IS. THAT REMINDS ME, I HAVEN'T SEEN AKE-SAMA LATELY
Whisper
Whisper
Whisper
YOU'RE RIGHT. WEREN'T THEY ABOUT TO DECIDE WHICH ONE SHOULD BE CHOSEN AS MIKATAKE-SAMA'S SUCCESSOR?
WHERE DID HE GO?
UM... BUT WITHOUT AKE-SAMA AROUND, I FEEL INSECURE.
...

LET'S GO.

LET'S GO, SHIRO

I'LL TRY MY BEST TO FIND HIM.

THANK YOU.

Maybe...

YEAH

ONCE THE SUN SETS, IT'S DANGEROUS FOR A HUMAN CHILD TO WANDER

LET'S STOP HERE FOR TODAY

But...

Ake was nowhere to be found

...

Bob

Bob

AH... IT'S POSSIBLE.

...SHIRO ONE-SIDEDLY CHALLENGED HIM TO A FIGHT,

SO AKE WAS TROUBLED AND WENT INTO HIDING WHAT DO YOU THINK?

then Ake seems rather petty.

after seeing Shiro looking so desperate,

But if he didn't come out

...AH.

THIS WON'T DO

HM?

Haaa, that warm water felt good

AH.

might not be impartial anymore.

I'M SURE IT SOUNDED LOVELY...

YEAH IT USED TO BE ABLE TO PLAY MUSIC.

I JUST SAW THIS BOX AND THOUGHT IT WAS VERY BEAUTIFUL.

I-I DIDN'T TOUCH IT

SHIVERS

CAN IT BE FIXED?

ACTUALLY, I WANTED TO TRY AND FIX IT MYSELF

NO, IT'S FINE.

I'M SORRY! I'M NOT TOO CONFIDENT ABOUT THIS, BUT I KNOW A HERMIT WHO'S GOOD WITH MACHINERY.

ONCE THINGS ARE SETTLED, I COULD ASK HIM TO HELP...

I'VE NEVER DONE SOME-THING LIKE THIS,

SO I'M NOT SKILLFUL AT ALL. BUT...

I JUST THOUGHT...

THAT IF I COULD FIX IT, TOUKO-SAN WOULD BE REALLY HAPPY.

UH...

Ding

Dang

Dang

BEAN-SPROUT NII-SAN.

STOP THAT

HMM...
STILL, THAT SOUNDS TROUBLE-SOME...

OH, ACTUALLY, TANUMA, YOU SEEM TO BE SKILLFUL... COULD YOU GIVE ME SOME ADVICE?

HM?

YOU OKAY, NATSUME? YOU SEEM TIRED... IS IT ANOTHER AYAKASHI?

YEAH... BUT THIS TIME, I ONLY HAVE TO WATCH. DON'T WORRY, TANUMA.

It might have been settled if I asked Tanuma to do the reparation, but

"IF YOU CAN GET THE FRAGMENT OF OUT THERE, MAYBE."

I borrowed the model tweezers from Tanuma's father

"HMMM. IT'S PROBABLY MISSING A PIECE SOME-WHERE.

AND THAT MISSING PIECE IS STUCK IN THE GEARS SO IT CAN'T ROTATE."

When the Ake search finishes today, I'll immediately...

GOOD

Ayakashi.

DO YOU NEED SOME-THING...?

Is it after the Book of Friends?

Gasp

ARE YOU BEAN-SPROUT NI:-SAN?

SPURT

THIS IS OUR FIRST MEETING.

Or...

SORRY TO INTER-RUPT

Beautiful kimono...

Bj

Strong

RUB

RUB

HOW DO YOU KNOW...?

WHO ARE YOU?

YES IT SEEMS LIKE SHIRO GAVE YOU LOTS OF TROUBLE.

ARE YOU AKE?

NO... THE TRUTH IS, I NEED TO TELL SHIRO SOMETHING. BUT WHENEVER HE SEES ME, HE IMMEDIATELY CHARGES AT ME.

BUT WHY DID YOU RUN? DO YOU NOT WANT TO FIGHT WITH SHIRO...?

THAT'S FINE...

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?

BUT I AM DISTRACTED R@HT NOW.. AND I DON'T WANT TO HAVE A SLOPPY FIGHT

ACTUALLY, IT WOULD BE BETTER IF TALKED TO HIM AFTER THE F@HT

AH... BUT IT'S UNVERIFIED INFORMATION. SHOULD I REALLY TELL YOU?

GASP

FOUND YOU! I WON'T LET YOU RUN THIS TIME!

AKE!

AKE!

HAVEN'T WE BEEN COMPETING ALL THIS TIME?

PLEASE FIGHT WITH ME.

I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT MIKATAKE-SA-MA'S SERIOUS AFFAIRS,

AND IF I CAN BE OF USE TO HIM WITH THIS POWER OF MINE.

THERE'S A REFEREE TOO.

PITY IS NOT NEEDED.

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.

I'LL TAKE YOUR CHALLENGE ON, BUT GIVE ME TIME.

WAIT, AKE...!

SWOOSH

SWOOSH

IN THE TRAINING FOREST

THREE DAYS FROM NOW, AT THIS TIME.

SWOOSH

DID AKE SAY SOMETHING?

YEAH. HE WANTS TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING.

IS THAT SO?

AKE AND I DIDN'T COME FROM HERE.

WE BOTH COME FROM THE HILLS AND, WITH ALL OUR MIGHT, FINALLY MADE IT HERE.

WHILE I STAYED DELICATE AND SMALL.

BUT BEFORE I REALIZED IT, AKE GREW UP TO BE STRONG

WE WERE PICKED UP BY MIKATAKE-SAMA.

HE TRAINED US EQUALLY, TAUGHT US EQUALLY, AND GAVE US HIS LOVE EQUALLY

WE WERE ALSO ACCEPTED BY THE ONES LIVING ON THIS SOIL.

OF COURSE I WANT TO WIN BUT IF I LOSE, PROBABLY...

IF AKE WINS I'LL-

BUT BEFORE THAT HAPPENS, I WANT TO FIGHT WITH HIM.

MIKATAKE-SAMA PROBABLY WILL CHOOSE AKE AS HIS SUCCESSOR,

AKE IS GENTLE.

I'M JUST SAD THAT AKE RAN AWAY WHEN I CHALLENGED HIM.

SENSEI...

YOU'LL ACCEPT DEFEAT?

BUT HE HAS FINALLY ACCEPTED MY CHALLENGE

HE MUST HAVE THOUGHT THAT I WOULD LOSE...

SWOOSH

CLICK

CLICK

THAT'S THE SPIRIT!

FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS, I HAVE TO TRAIN EVEN MORE.

Sigh

Ahhh!

Toss

Toss

DO IT OUT-SIDE!!!

EH! TRANSFOR-MATION?!

POOF

Yeah! Bring it on!

Please be my opponent

POOF

"IF I CAN BE OF SOME USE TO HIM WITH THIS POWER OF MINE."

"I WANT TO KNOW..."

♪

♫

Tug Tug Tug

A fragment?

click

Ah, something is stuck there.

CLICK CLICK CLICK

...

AH..

SWOOSH

GASP

SNAP

RATTLE

SLIDE

KJJU... I'M EXHAUSTED.

SIGH

BEYOND FIXING NOW.

IT COULD BE...

I THINK I BROKE SOME-THING..

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

IT'S FINE. THANK YOU.

....

LOOK, MY HANDS ARE SMALL. MAYBE I CAN DO SOME-THING...

DON'T WORRY PLEASE SHOW ME.

...

OKAY

If something's already broken, shouldn't you focus on something else? Something that's more worth it? Wouldn't that be better?

If you want something too much, when you look back, you'll realize you've missed out on something else

I also have.

To want something

...things I can do.

Shiro trained hard...

and the day finally arrived

YES! NII-SAN.

OH, THE OTHER ONE IS HERE TOO.

CLENCH

I'M THE REFEREE SO I CAN'T ROOT FOR YOU, BUT GIVE IT YOUR BEST. SHIRO!

Frazzled

SHIRO.

AKE!

WHAT HAP-PENED? ARE YOU OKAY?!

YEAH.

ME TOO I'M SORRY THAT YOU HAVE TO GO ALONG WITH MY SELF-ISHNESS, AKE.

SORRY I MADE YOU WAIT, SHIRO.

WELL THEN...

START!!!

PROOF

These are...

Drops

Squeak

Squeak

OUCH!

...two beautiful dragons.

HM?

WHAT'S THIS...?

AH...

EH.

OH, IT'S DECIDED.

BAM

...

...

THE WINNER IS...

SHIRO.

SHIRO, YOU GAVE IT YOUR ALL.

I WON...! I NEVER THOUGHT I'D WIN AGAINST AKE...

YES!

BUT AKE SEEMS EXHAUSTED...

EH...

OH...

EH

...

Gasp

THIS FELL WHILE YOU WERE FIGHTING. IS IT AKE'S?

PLEASE GIVE IT TO HIM.

AH, I SEE..

...

THESE ARE... MEDICAL HERBS..

Hm?

EH? WHAT IS-?

...

...

AKE MUST HAVE BEEN GETTING MED CAL HERBS FOR MASTER.

WHILE I WAS ONLY THINKING ABOUT MYSELF,

AKE

AKE, I'M SORRY

I'M SORRY..

I..

I..

SHIRO, I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO SEARCH WITH ME.

AND AFTER YOU CHAL-LENGED ME, I COULDN'T STUBBORNLY ASK YOU TO COME WITH ME.

I DIDN'T KNOW IF THEY WOULD WORK, AND DIDN'T WANT TO GET YOUR HOPES UP

LET US SEARCH TOGETHER TOMORROW ONWARDS

SWOOSH

YOU TWO HAVE GUTS. SKIPPING TRAINING TOGETHER.

HEY, YOU FOOLS.

LIFTS

GOING HOME YOU'RE GOING TO GET A GOOD SCOLDING, SO

LIFTS

MIKATAKE-

ROAR

ROAR

FAREWELL.

HMMM
I SAW
I SEE
SWOOSH

Opens

IT'S SLOW, BUT SOMETIMES IT MAKES A SOUND

IT'S NOT STUCK ANY MORE.

EH...

WELL, YESTERDAY YOU SAID YOU BROKE IT FOR REAL, RIGHT? BUT WHEN I TURN THE KEY A FEW TIMES...

WHAT HAPPENED?

Creak Creak Creak

AH!

THANK YOU.

FUFU.

HMMM?

DID SHIZO DO SOME-THING...?

SENSEI

...

ANYWAY, AYAKASHI ARE NO MAGICIANS.

IDIOT, HOW WOULD I KNOW?

THAT IS SO.

IS THAT SO?

AHOY!
Translator Oyster
Proofreader Electric Eel
Cleaner Eel
Typesetter Jellyfish
Quality Checker Seabass
SEAFOODBUFFETSCANS.WORDPRESS.COM

シリーズ累計950万部突破!!

メガヒットあやかし契約奇談

巻頭カラー45P

BETWEEN ONES WHO CAN SEE.

THINGS THAT CAN'T BE SAID.

NOW FACE EACH OTHER.

夏目友人帳

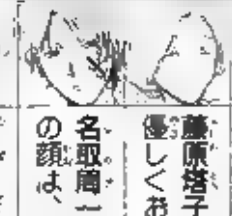
閉ざされた部屋の章 前編

●なつめゆうじんちょう●

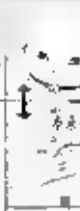
緑川ゆき

★HC最新⑰巻&ファンブック第3弾「夏目画楽帳」絶賛発売中!!

夏目友人帳あらすじ



夏目貴志：妖が見える少年。祖母の遺品、「友人帳」を継ぐ。



ニャンコ先生：夏目の（自称）用心棒。

藤原塔子：藤原家の奥さん。優しくおっとりした性格。

名取周一：妖怪祓い人。表の顔は、超売れっ子俳優。

七瀬：妖祓い屋・的場一門に所属する、的場の秘書。

★**夏目貴志**には秘密が。それは妖怪が見える事。ある日彼は、強い妖力を持っていた祖母・レイコの遺品である妖怪達の契約書、「**友人帳**」を手にする。以来、（自称）用心棒のニャンコ先生と共に、名を返したり、妖怪達から狙われたりと忙しい日々を過ごす事に。

★小さな妖怪・シロから、ある勝負の審判を頼まれた夏目。師匠の後継者争いをもう一人の弟子・アケとしていて、決着をつけたいのだという。勝負当日。結果はシロに軍配があがるか、負けたアケにはある事情があったのだった。

★普段の生活に戻った夏目。一方、友人帳について調べを進める**名取**は!?

（左から）柊・西後・瓜姫

RIGHT HERE.

SUPARUS

EEK!

KYAA AAH

SHUUOOSH

SHUDDER

SHUDDER

whisper whisper

YOU'RE RIGHT, HOW SCARY WE MIGHT BE EXORCISED IF HE FINDS US

HEY, ISN'T THAT AN EXOR-CIST?

FUU, ONE DOWN.

...THAT'S RIGHT, HAVE YOU TWO HEARD OF THE BOOK OF FRIENDS?
OH BOY, LIKE I SAID...
EEEP, HE FOUND US!!! PLEASE FORGIVE US, WE'LL DO ANYTHING.
NOT TO WORRY. MY BODY WON'T HOLD UP IF I EVEN EXORCISE LITTLE ONES LIKE YOU.
W-WE DO NOT KNOW OF SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
.....
...BOOK OF FRIENDS?
.....
SWOOSH
SIGH
HYAA
W-WELL THEN, EXCUSE US.
AH, WAI-

HMPH. ISN'T THAT BECAUSE OF YOUR SPEECH AND CONDUCT?

"OH LOOK TAKASH -KUN THAT S YOUR FR END NATORI SAN RIGHT? HE S ON TH - I WONDER HE S DO NG-A... R GHT?"

Rattle

Rattle

Rattle

Rattle

GEEZ. WHY MUST WE GO TO THAT NATOR. BOY'S HOUSE AGAIN.

THERE'S NO HELPING IT TOUKO-SAN MADE TOO MUCH JAM AND WANTS TO GIVE SOME TO NATORI-SAN.

"HE S PROBABLY DO NG WELL NOW THAT I TH NK ABOUT T,

"I PEEKED NTO H S FR DGE AND THERE WAS CLOSE TO NOTH NG NS DE I WONDER F THAT S WHAT A MAN L V NG ALONE S L KE"

WHEN I WENT TO H S HOUSE LAST T ME H S ROOM WASN'T VERY L VED N AND HAD ALMOST NOTH NG N T

"WELL

CLENCH

AND SO ON.

ISN'T IT BECAUSE YOU GAVE TOUKO-SAN SUCH SENSI-TIVE INFORMATION THAT SHE GOT WORRIED?

夏目友人帳

BUT IT WAS KIND OF SUSPICIOUS. SO I WONDER IF THOSE WERE HIS TRUE THOUGHTS.

YEAH, HIS LAUGH SEEMED TO BE HAPPY

WELL, I AGREE.

RATTLE

RATTLE

. NATORI-SAN .

I WONDER IF HE EATS JAM? HOW DOES HE DO WITH SWEETS?

WELL, ON THE PHONE, HE SAID HE'D COME PICK IT UP, RIGHT?

TEAR

Zlx

NATORI-SAN WHO CAN SEE AYAKASHI JUST LIKE I CAN

IS A FRIEND AND AN EXORCIST

BUT I CAN'T TELL HIM ABOUT THE BOOK OF FRIENDS

THERE'S STILL A LOT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT HIM

I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF HE LIKES SWEETS OR NOT.

RATTLE

RATTLE

ANYWAYS I HOPE HE'S HAPPY TO GET THE JAM

NATSUME.

UMM, I THINK IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE AROUND HERE..

HEY, THANKS FOR COMING.

I'M HERE TO PICK YOU UP.

HMM? IS THAT SO?

Huh?! NO way! He looks exactly like him

Kyaa! Hey look that guy.

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME HERE JUST TO PICK ME UP

NATORI-SAN?!

YOU DONT HAVE TO SAY SUCH PITIFUL THINGS SO BLUNTLY.

Sliver

GIRLS ARE ONE THING, BUT SINCE I DON'T HAVE ANY GUY FRIENDS, I DIDN'T KNOW.

WHAT'S THIS, THE PIG CAT HAS GOTTEN EVEN ROUNDER?

YOU'RE NOISY AS USUAL.

URIHIME SASAGO.

SUPER

LONG TIME NO SEE, NATSUME

H...RAG!

AHAHA, NATSUME, YOU'RE SO IMPATIENT

A-ANYWAYS, WE STAND OUT HERE SO LET'S HURRY UP AND GO.

Kyaaa! He's the real one!

Oh, That man

THAT'S.

YES.

AH,

THERE'S SOMEONE STANDING IN FRONT OF YOUR APARTMENT, NATORI-SAN.

FOR YOU TO COME TO MY HOUSE. WHAT'S THE MATTER?

. A FRIEND.

I'M NERVOUS HMM? WHO'S THIS?

NATORI,

GOOD THERE'S A PLACE I WANT YOU TO GO ASAP

IS THIS THE STRANGELY POWERFUL KID I HEAR YOU BRING AROUND SOMETIMES?

AH, BY ANY CHANCE.

OKAY

SORRY, WE HAVE SOMETHING TO DISCUSS. COULD YOU GIVE US SOME PRIVACY?

NATORI, IT'S THE HAKOZAKI HOUSE

HEY, AIMIYA-SAN...

HUH?

OKAY! IF IT'S LIKE THIS, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO WIN. COULD YOU COME TOO?

HUH.

WHAT'S THAT RUMOR ABOUT?

HE'S JUST A NORMAL FRIEND OF MINE.

YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO OBTAIN THE HAKOZAK HOUSE INHERITANCE.

IN-HERIT-ANCE...?

WHEN YOU SAY HAKOZAKI-SAN, YOU MEAN *THAT* HOUSEHOLD?

YEAH, YOU'RE INTERESTED IN IT TOO, RIGHT?

BUT CLANS SUCH AS THE MATOBA WILL DEFINITELY HONE IN ON THIS TOO.

IF THE INHERITANCE FALLS INTO THE R HANDS, IT MIGHT BE A REAL PAIN .

WE URGENTLY NEED SOME BACKJP

DOCUMENTS CONTAINING ALL KINDS OF RESEARCH

SOUNDS INTERESTING. THERE MIGHT ALSO BE RECORDS OF REIKO AND THE BOOK OF FRIENDS

I TOLD YOU, AIMIYA-SAN, HE'S—

THESE DOCUMENTS WILL DEFINITELY BE USEFUL TO YOU IF YOU CAN SEE AYAKASHI TOO HOW ABOUT IT? WON'T YOU PARTICIPATE?

IT'S SAID THAT HE HAS AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF SUCH DOCUMENTS

HMM, AHH HE DID A LOT OF RESEARCH ON AYAKASHI EXORCISM.

WHO'S THIS HAKOZAKI-SAN?

YES, I SEE...

SO THAT I CAN DO MORE THAN JUST FEAR. I WANT TO GET STRONGER.

I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT AYAKASHI,

NATORI-SAN, I'M INTERESTED IN THIS TOO.

I'D LIKE TO HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY, IF THAT'S ALL RIGHT

I OWE YOU ONE THAT SETTLES IT THEN

I PREPARED A CAR, SO LET'S HEAD OVER THERE RIGHT NOW

THE HAKOZAKI HOUSE WAS ABOUT AN HOUR AND A HALF AWAY BY CAR

AND BUILT IN A DESERTED AREA WITH NO PEOPLE AROUND

IN-CREDI-BLE

OOOH, THAT'S A HUGE HOUSE

I HEARD IT'S LIKE A LABYRINTH INSIDE. TOO

HAKO-ZAKI-SAN APPARENTLY LIVED HERE ALONE

CHATTER
CHATTER
箱崎
HAKOZAKI
ALONE?
YES. BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF GUESTS...
THAT'S WHY HE HAD ALMOST NO FRIENDS...
WHILE HE WAS A SKILLFUL EXORCIST AND RESEARCHER, HE WAS ALSO A WEIRD ONE
IN THE END, I HEARD HE DIED PEACEFULLY OF SENILITY IN THE HOSPITAL.
HUH?
AIMIYA-SAN..
AND EVEN NATORI-SAN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMING.
YES, THEY ARE GUESTS, BUT THEY'RE ALSO HERE ON THE SAME BUSINESS AS US.
SHE IS ONE OF HAKOZAKI-SAN'S BEREAVED FAMILY, HIS GRAND-CHILD
NO, I'M SORRY AS WELL, I ASKED SOMETHING IMPOSSIBLE OF YOU.
WE... WELL, WELL, HAKOZAKI-SAN, WE'LL BE TROUBLING YOU.

MY REQUEST IS TO FIND MY *GRANDFATHER'S STUDY* HIDDEN SOMEWHERE ON THESE GROUNDS.

I'VE TOLD THIS TO ALL THE GATHERED EXORCISTS, BUT

SO WERE YOU SUCCESS-FUL?

WE STILL HAVE NOTH-ING.

NOTHING LIKE A STUDY...

HIS STUDY?

THOSE ARE SAID TO HAVE BEEN LOCKED AWAY IN HIS STUDY. WE SEARCHED THE WHOLE HOUSE AFTER HIS DEATH, BUT FOUND NOTHING.

AS YOU ALREADY KNOW, MY GRANDFATHER POSSESSED A GREAT NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS ON AYAKA-SHI

BUT IT WORRIES ME TO SELL A HOUSE WHICH SUPPOSEDLY HAS A STRANGE STUDY HIDDEN SOMEWHERE.

YES. HOWEVER, NONE OF THE SURVIVING FAMILY MEMBERS HAS THE POWER TO SEE ANY-MORE.

ACTUALLY, WE WISH TO CUT ALL TIES WITH AYAKASHI AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND LET GO OF THIS HOUSE.

YOU COULDN'T FIND IT? EVEN IF THE GROUNDS ARE LARGE.

IT'S HAKOZAKI WE'RE TALKING ABOUT, SO WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN POSSI-BLE THAT HE USED A TECHNIQUE TO HIDE THE ROOM FROM SIGHT?

THUS, WE HAVE GATHERED EXORCISTS FROM ALL THE WELL-KNOWN FAMILIES HERE.

AND SINCE WE WILL GIVE THE THINGS IN THE STUDY TO THE ONES WHO FIND IT,

I WANT YOU TO FIND IT BY ANY MEANS.

HAKO-ZAK-SAN'S INHERITANCE IS SAID TO BE THERE

A HIDDEN STUDY..

.....

SEE, THERE'S NO BETTER OPPORTUNITY THAN THIS.

THAT'S INCREDIBLE.

...YES,

THERE'S ALSO SOMETHING I WANT TO INVESTIGATE

BUT THERE'S NO HARM IF WE MANAGE TO GET IT. WILL YOU HELP ME?

NATSUME, TO BE HONEST, I DON'T REALLY WANT YOU TO COME IN CONTACT WITH EXORCISTS,

OR...

THAT'S RIGHT

FOR EXAMPLE, SOMETHING ABOUT THE BOOK OF FRIENDS

HMOOMS.

YOU ARE ALSO FREE TO USE AND MOVE ANYTHING INSIDE.

WELL THEN, I'M COUNTING ON YOU.

A WAY TO GET RID OF NATORI-SAN'S LIZARD BIRTHMARK

YOU ARE FREE TO WANDER ABOUT ANYWHERE ON THE PREMISES.

THIS INCLUDES THE GROUNDS. THE MAIN BUILDING. THE GUEST HOUSE. THE WAREHOUSE AND THE GAZEBO.

BUT THAT GRANDCHILD IS A SNEAKY ONE TOO.

IT WOULD'VE BEEN FINE IF SHE'D ONLY CALLED US, BUT THIS MANY PEOPLE

SHE PROBABLY JUST WANTS TO FIND THAT CREEPY ROOM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND PUT THINGS IN ORDER.

SHE DOESN'T CARE WHOM SHE GIVES THE DOCUMENTS TO.

TCH

緑川ゆき
あやかし契約奇談、待望最新刊!!!
花とゆめコミックス
夏目友人帳 ⑰巻
夏目友人帳の本が
2冊同時
発売中!!!
夏目友人帳公式サイト
http://www.hakusensha.co.jp/natsume/
夏目友人帳公式ツイッター
@Natsume_Nyanko
花とゆめコミックススペシャル
夏目友人帳ビジュアルファンブック
夏目画楽帳
イラスト&ぬいぐるみ写真まんが満載!
緑川ゆき

FOR THE CHILD WHO CAN'T SEE THEM, AYAKASHI ARE A CREEPY EXISTENCE

THAT'S NOT SOMETHING I CAN CHANGE, BUT

TO TAKE THAT ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE HOUSE WHERE YOUR GRANDFATHER LIVED AND THE THINGS YOUR GRANDFATHER LEFT BEHIND S

WHAT IS IT, NATSU-ME?

KIND OF SAD.

NOTHING. I JUST GOT A LITTLE SENTIMENTAL.

HAHA, THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU.

BUT ANYWAYS, IF THEY SAY THEY DON'T WANT IT, WHY DON'T WE TAKE IT?

RATHER THAN LETTING RANDOM AMATEURS WHO WON'T KNOW HOW TO USE THE DOCUMENTS GET TO THEM FIRST,

IT'S BETTER FOR PEOPLE WHO'LL NEED AND TAKE CARE OF THE DOCUMENTS TO FIND THEM.

YES.

WELL THEN. I'LL TAKE THIS TRI-COLORED CAT THING AND GO TO THE WESTERN GUEST HOUSE

AH, NATSUME, WAIT.

THEN. I'LL TAKE MY SHIKI WITH ME AND LOOK IN THE EASTERN GUEST HOUSE

URIHIME AND SASAGO. SEARCH THE GAZEBO

I'LL STAY OUTSIDE AND INVESTIGATE AMONG THE EXORCISTS.

YOU AND HIIRAGI GO AROUND THE PREMISES PRETENDING TO BE AYAKASHI AND LISTEN TO WHAT THEY SAY.

I'LL LEND YOU A MASK, SO WEAR THIS.

I TOLD YOU THOSE WITH RELATIONS TO THE MATOBA AND OTHER GREAT HOUSES HAVE ALSO COME

IT WOULD BE TROUBLE-SOME FOR YOU TO MEET SOME-ONE YOU KNEW, WOULDN'T IT?

YES.

THEN LET'S MEET AGAIN HERE IN AN HOUR.

YES

I'M COUNTING ON YOU, HIIRAGI.

WOW, IT'S SO VAST

Chatter

Chatter

HOW IS IT? DID YOU FIND ANY-THING?

NO.

Whi-per

Whi-per

KEEP SEARCH-ING.

IF WE GET OUR HANDS ON THE HAKOZAKI DOCUMENTS, OUR STATUS WILL RISE AT ONCE

Chatter

Chatter

AFTER GAUGING THE SITUATION, I DON'T THINK WE'LL GET ANY HINTS BY ASKING OUR BUSINESS RIVALS.

.INCREDI-BLE

*[illegible]

Kyaa

Kyaa a monster shaped like *kagami mochi

HMM. BUT A LOT OF SEEMINGLY UNRELAT-ED AYAKASHI HAVE SNUCK IN HERE TOO

HOW IS IT?

THERE ARE A LOT OF HALF-WITTED AYAKASHI, RIGHT? AND SOME MADE INTO A SHIKI AGAINST THEIR WILL.

IT FEELS RATHER NICE IN HERE.
HUH?
THE FEELING WHEN YOURE STRUGGLING WITH YOUR STUDIES,
AND IM IDLY ROLLING AROUND ON THE ROOF...
Nice and warm
OR WHEN YOUR HEAD HURTS FROM DOING YOUR HOMEWORK OR WHATEVER, AND I'M LYING ON A FLUFFY CUSHION BESIDE YOU.
♥
UWAH! THAT MAKES ME REALLY ANGRY, BUT IT SOUNDS RELAXING... DO YOU FEEL THAT TOO, HIRAGI?
LET'S SEE. I CAN'T THINK OF A GOOD EXAMPLE, BUT YES.
THANKS, BUT I DON'T NEED ANOTHER EXAMPLE!
BUT REALLY, EVEN THOUGH WE'RE IN AN EXORCIST'S HOUSE, I CAN'T FEEL ANY KIND OF BARRIER.
IT SEEMS HE ALLOWED THE INVASION OF AYAKASHI JUST LIKE A BIRD-LOVER WELCOMES BIRDS.
OOO OOH...
OH.
OH.
OH.
HMM...
OOH...
OOO OOH..

...IF IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO, YOU PROBABLY MET MY GRAND-MOTHER, REIKO

SHE'S ALREADY PASSED AWAY.

...OO OOH

YOUR SMELL... YOUR PRESENCE... I FEEL LIKE WE'VE MET BEFORE.

OH.

OOH.

SIGH!

ARE YOU OKAY?

YEAH.

HUH.

SEEMS LIKE A LOT OF TROUBLE. IS IT BECAUSE OF SOMETHING YOU HAVE WITH YOU?

IS THIS...

SOME-THING YOU CAN'T TELL NATORI?

JUST BE-CAUSE YOU CAN SEE, RIGHT?

AYAKASHI DO NOT COME AND MEDDLE WITH YOU...

I WANT TO TELL HIM, BUT IT MIGHT NOT BE GOOD IF EXORCISTS LEARN ABOUT IT.

IF I TOLD HIM, HE MIGHT GET CAUGHT UP IN SOME TROUBLE.

AND ALSO..

... ..

HIIRAGI.

WELL, THAT MIGHT BE TRUE.

.....

...JUST THAT...

SIGH

SO I'M ANXIOUS ABOUT TELLING HIM.

NATORI-SAN IS A NICE PERSON, AND, DESPITE THE WAY HE LOOKS, PROBABLY A WORRYWART..

IF YOU DON'T TELL HIM, HE'LL STILL WORRY ABOUT YOU NOT TELLING HIM...

GLITTER

!

WHAT WAS THAT?

LET'S GO! IT'S THIS WAY!

DASH

SNEAK

HOOSH

BUT IF HE'D HID A ROOM WITH TECHNIQUES.

I'M STUMPED

I HEARD HAKOZAKI WAS INCREDIBLY SKILLED.

AH BUT IF IT'S NATSUME HE MIGHT

CAN IT EVEN BE FOUND?

SIGH

SINCE HE'S DIFFERENT FROM US, MAYBE NATSUME CAN...

NANASE-SAN!

IT'S BEEN A WHILE. HOW ABOUT IT? WOULD YOU LIKE TO TEAM UP AND SPLIT 60:40?

YOUR NOSE FOR TREASURE IS AS GOOD AS EVER.

OH MY, WELL, IF IT ISN'T NATORI

NO, NOTHING. ON SUCH A VAST PROPERTY, IT MIGHT TAKE SEVERAL DAYS. .

HOW IS IT? HAVE YOU GOTTEN ANY HINTS?

HAHA, NO THANK YOU. YOU SAY THAT, BUT YOU INTEND TO SNEAK EVERY-THING AWAY YOUR-SELF, DON'T YOU?

FUFU, I CAN'T DO ANYTHING IF WE DON'T FIND ANYTHING

THE MATOBA HAVE INVITED HAKOZAK TO THEIR CLAN SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PAST, BUT HE WAS QUITE THE STRANGE OLD MAN.

IT SEEMS THAT BESIDES US, HE HARDLY INTERACTED WITH ANYBODY .. EVEN THOSE HE'D MET BEFORE.

HOW-EVER, HIS ABILITY WAS REAL AND IT SEEMS HE DID GO TO THE PEOPLE HE LIKED AS A LAST RESORT WHEN IN TROUBLE.

HUH?

THOUGH, IT MAKES NO DIFFER-ENCE TO THE MATOBA.

HAA.. THERE AREN'T ANY HINTS AT AL..

LaLa4月号 2/24発売 のふろくは、

裏目ステーショナリー企画第一弾!

「裏目友人帳」by 緑川ゆき

ニャンコ先生ペンケース

クリア素材のオシャレデザイン☆

ニャンコが可愛い!

動き回る

ペンが引っ込べるよ!

5月号の第三弾は

シャーペン&消しゴムが登場!!

カバンの中身は!!

EVEN IF THE STUDY ISN'T FOUND NOW, WE WILL BE ABLE TO SEARCH AT OUR LE SURE WHEN THE MATOBA BUY THE ENTIRE ESTATE.

PLEASE CALL IT EFFICIENT THE REAL PROBLEM WOULD BE IF A NORMAL PERSON BOUGHT IT, WOULDN'T IT?

CRUDE AS ALWAYS.

COULD IT BE THAT YOU CAME HERE TO INTERFERE IN CASE SOME OTHER EXORCIST FINDS THE ROOM FIRST?

YOU'RE TOO SUSPICIOUS. I'M JUST DOING A PRELIMINARY INSPECTION.

THAT REMINDS ME. .

SEE YOU.

I SEE. I THINK IT'D BE A GOOD EXPERIENCE IF THAT BOY CAME TO THE MATOBA TOO

IS THAT NATSUME BOY DOING WELL?

WHO KNOWS?

I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM LATELY

...

TCH, SO NANASE-SAN HAS COME

I HAVE TO TELL NATSUME SO THEY WON'T RUN INTO EACH OTHER...

DASH

UWAH...

WHAT HAPPENED?

IT'S LIKE A ROBBERY

I KNOW THEY'RE SEARCHING, BUT THIS IS OVERDOING IT

I DON'T MIND. WE PLANNED TO DISPOSE OF THE FURNITURE ANYWAYS.

IS IT REA...Y OKAY. .

LIKE TH S?

IF WE SE... IT AS IT S, SOMETHING LEFT BEHIND HERE MIGHT BRING A CALAMITY UPON US AS WELL

THERE'S NO HE..PING IT A CREEPY ROOM MIGHT EXIST SOME-WHERE, AND WE CAN'T FIND IT.

OTHERWISE, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO ..VE IN PEACE.

AND TAKE IT AWAY

THEREFORE, WE MUST HAVE THE EXORCISTS FIND IT IMMEDI-ATELY.

I WAS HAPPY AT THE TIME.

WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I SAID I LIKED MAPLES, SO MY GRANDFATHER IMMEDIATELY PLANTED ONE FOR ME.

..SEE THIS MAPLE TREE?

I KNOW IT'S HEARTLESS.

BUT THERE'S NO OTHER SOLUTION.

BUT WHENEVER I MET HIM, HE'D HAPPILY GO ON AND ON ABOUT AYAKASHI

I COULDN'T SEE THEM, SO HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO ENJOYED HIMSELF

THAT'S WHY GRADUALLY, I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE MY GRANDFATHER ANYMORE.

BEFORE I REALIZED IT, HE HAD LOCKED HIMSELF IN THIS HOUSE AND IMMERSED HIMSELF WITH SOME WEIRD RESEARCH

THE REST OF THE FAMILY ALSO FOUND MY GRANDFATHER DISCOMFORTING

I HATE THIS HOUSE

WHEN IT'S SOLD, I'LL DEFINITELY FEEL RE-LEVED

SWOOSH

I JUST THOUGHT THAT IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'D HEARD SOMEONE COMPLETELY REJECT THE ABILITY TO SEE

UH, YEAH.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, NATSUME?

CLENCH

THAT
BEL EF N
THE S GHT IS
NOT ALWAYS
ACCEPTED BY
EvERYONE

AND I
CAME TO
UNDERSTAND

THAT S
ALL

AS I
WAS TALKING TO
THAT PERSON JUST
NOW, A THOUGHT
CROSSED MY
MIND.

THERE
ARE THINGS
THAT I CAN
DO

I VE
COME TO A
PLACE WHERE
I CAN THINK
THAT

I M NOT
AS AFRA D
AS I WAS
BEFORE

OF BE NG
REJECTED
BY SOMEONE

WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO LOCATE THE STUDY IF WE FIND THE SHIKI AND TALK TO IT, RIGHT?

LIKE THAT TIME WITH TAKUMA-SAN

IF HE WAS AN EXORCIST, HE MUST'VE HAD SHIK

IT MIGHT BE STILL IN THE MANSION.

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT THAT'S WHY EVERY-ONE'S STRUG-GLING.

NO, I DOUBT MANY EXORCISTS KNOW.

HIIRAGI, HAVE YOU HEARD WHAT KIND OF SHIKI HE HAD?

WE'LL ASK THE AYAKASHI, OR LOOK FOR MEMOS OR DIA-RIES ABOUT THE SHIKI

GOOD, LET'S SPLIT UP.

Okay

BUT WE SHOULD LEAVE THE PHYSICAL SEARCH OF THE STUDY TO THE MAS-TERS AND NARROW DOWN THE SEARCH FOR THE SHIKI OURSELVES.

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING I CAN FIND.
THE STRANGE ONES ARE ALWAYS ALONE
THAT'S WHY WE HAVE NO INFORMATION.
NO, REIKO-SAN ONLY LEFT THE BOOK OF FRIENDS.
WHILE HAKOZAKI-SAN STILL HAS A LOT OF MEMORABILIA HERE
JUST LIKE REIKO-SAN.
..

CREAK

MY RELATIVES DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT HER.

BUT PERHAPS SOMEDAY, I'LL BE ALLOWED TO VISIT THAT PLACE

HAVE LIVED IN A HOUSE.

AND SURELY THERE MUST'VE BEEN A PLACE WHERE HER MEMORIES HAVE BEEN STRONGLY ENGRAVED.

RE.KO-SAN MUST ALSO.

SHOUK

HERE AKA...?

YOU'RE REIKO'S GRANDSON?

FU FUFU.

I HEARD WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE.

GRAB!

THEN YOU MUST HAVE THE BOOK OF FRIENDS.

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

THE TERRIFYING YET SWEET BOOK OF FRIENDS.

TAKING THE NAMES OF MANY, GAINING THEIR OBEDIENCE AND HOLDING THE FREEDOM TO CRUSH THOSE LIVES AT WIL—

THAT IS NOT SOMETHING FOR A HUMAN CHILD TO HOLD ON TO.

GIVE IT TO ME.

DASH!

YOU'RE MERELY AN AYAKASHI...

LET GO OF HIM!

BA-DUMP

RUSTLE

UH..

YOU..

RUSTLE

IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LET GO, YOU'D BEST PREPARE YOURSELF

BA-DUMP!

NATORI-SAN.

SHOCK

WELL.

I WON'T HOLD BACK.

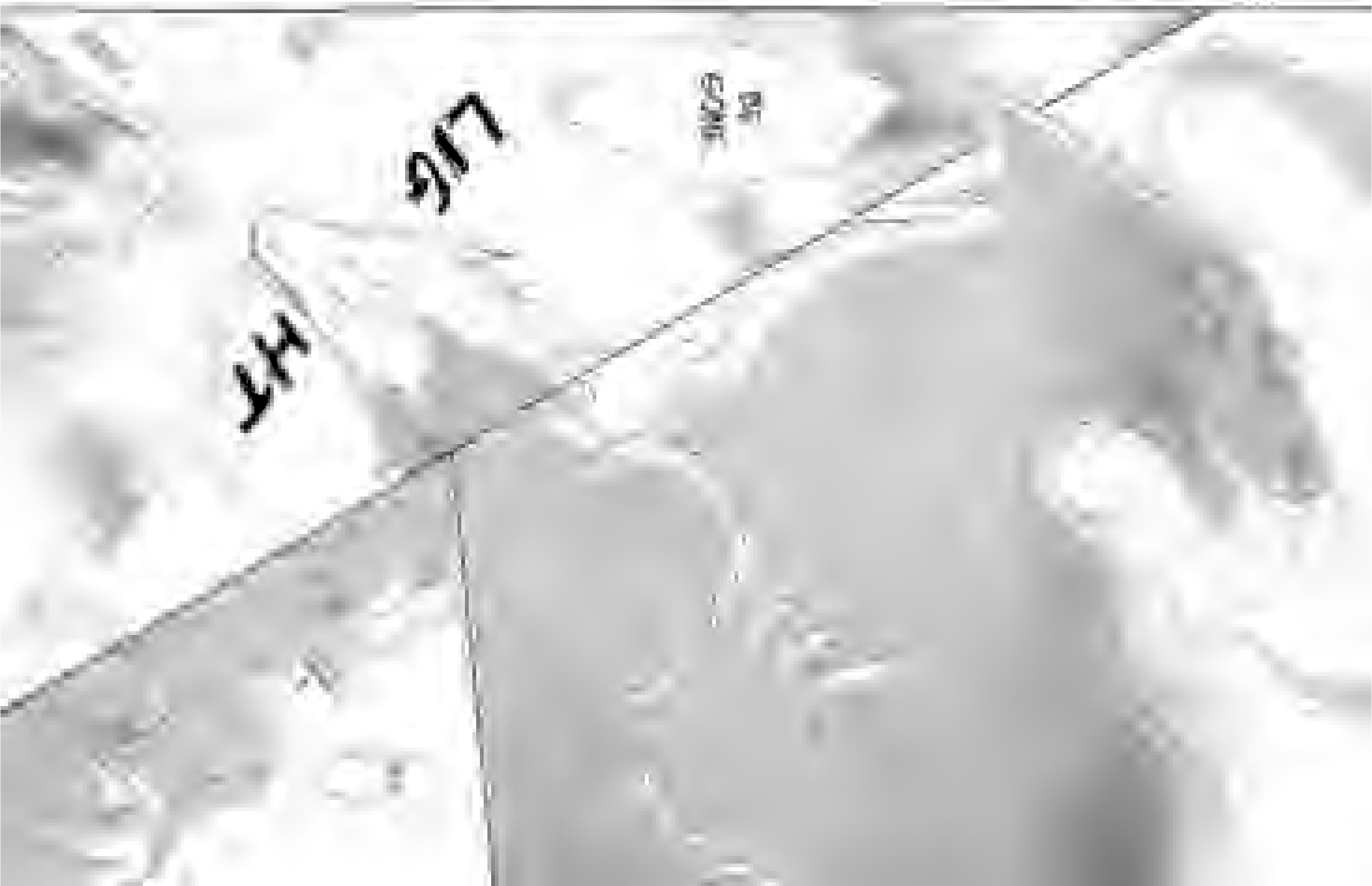
NATORI-SAN!

I'LL DRIVE AWAY A WEAKLING LIKE THIS.

STAND BACK, GREEN-HORN.

!

NYANKO-SENSEI!



EEEEEEEEK!

WHOOSH

BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP

ABOUT THE SECRET

I COULD TELL NOBODY ABOUT

HE HEARD T

HE HEARD ABOUT THE BOOK OF FRIENDS

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, NATSUME?

BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP

I'M ALL RIGHT

I'M ALL RIGHT

LET'S PRETEND.

I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING.

IT'S ALL RIGHT

NO.

WILL YOU HEAR ME OUT?

SWALLOW

I CAN'T TELL YOU NOW SINCE THERE ARE A LOT OF AYAKASH HERE.

BUT ONCE THIS IS OVER..

WILL YOU LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY?

SWOOSH

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Brought to you by

Transcendence

Transcendence

夏目友人帳

緑川ゆき

HE HEARD IT

HE HEARD ABOUT THE BOOK OF FRENDS

IN THAT CASE.

ONCE THIS IS OVER,

WILL YOU LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY?

OF COURSE.

THE MASTER OF THIS MANSION, HAKOZAKI-SAN,

MANY POWERFUL EXORCISTS WERE ASSIGNED TO INVESTIGATE

WAS IT THERE?!

NO

I WON'T LET ANYBODY ELSE FIND THEM.

THE DOCUMENTS INSIDE WILL BE GIVEN TO THE ONE WHO FINDS THEM.

IT'S A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO RISE IN RANK AS AN EXORCIST.

EXORCISTS AND THEIR SHIKI WERE CAUSING AN UPROAR ON THE PROPERTY

WHAT?! SOMEONE FROM THE MATOBA CLAN HAS ALSO COME?

SENSEI.

WE'RE DEALING WITH AN ECCENTRIC SPELL RESEARCHER HERE.

DON'T BE SO NAIVE.

RIGHT...

YES, NANASE-SAN.

WE'D BETTER FIND THE STUDY BEFORE IT GETS COMPLICATED.

STOP IT!

IT COULD ALSO BE A CURSED ROOM FULL OF EVIL SPIRITS!

WHAT WILL YOU DO IF IT'S A ROOM WHERE MAD SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS WERE PERFORMED ON CAPTURED AYAKASHI?!

!!!

OH, WELL... YOU SEE, NO ONE KNOWS FOR SURE WHAT'S THERE.

IT'S JUST A ROOM WITH PILED UP RESEARCH MATERIAL, RIGHT?!

HUH?!

WELL, THERE'S A FIFTY-FIFTY CHANCE.

NATORI-SAN!

DAMN, YOU'RE ALSO PARTICIPATING, HUH...

OH? IS THAT YOUR NEW SHIKI? I THOUGHT I HEARD... NATSU...ME... RIGHT?

HMM...

AH...

OH! NATORI-SAN?

COME NOW, CALM DOWN, NATSUME...

Yoh

*T/N: Natsumeg = Nutmeg

PFFT!

ITS NAME IS NATSU... NATSUMEG*.

RIGHT, IT'S CURRENTLY ON PROBATION.

YES... SO, HOW IS IT? HAVE YOU FOUND ANY LIKELY PLACES?

NO, IT MUST BE HIDDEN BY A TECHNIQUE OR SOMETHING.

NAT-SUMEG... WHAT A MODERN NAME...

...IT SEEMS HE WAS A SOLITARY PERSON.

THE MANSION IS LARGE AND OVERFLOWING WITH STUFF, BUT THERE'S VERY LITTLE WITH PRACTICAL OR PERSONAL VALUE.

PER-HAPS...

I'VE TRIED TO LOOK FOR SOME HINTS...

IF THAT'S SO, THEN WE WON'T BE ABLE TO FIND IT.

.....

IS THERE SOME-THING WRONG, NATSUMEG?

...WHAT'S THE MATTER, NATSUMEG?

...

HMM? WHAT IS IT, NA-TSUMEG?

OH...

I'M GOING TO GIVE UP.

DO YOUR BEST, NATORI.

I WILL.

AREN'T YOU OVERUSING MY PSEUDONYM?

...BUT WHEN I HEARD, PERSONAL VALUE, I REMEMBERED...

YEAH.

BUT THERE ARE SO MANY ROOMS I CAN'T EVEN GUESS WHERE TO START.

...I THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE A DIARY OR SOME PHOTOS SO I TRIED SEARCHING FOR A ROOM WITH THESE EVERYDAY THINGS...

IF IT WERE ME...

I HAVE A FEELING THAT...

THAT HER GRANDFATHER PLANTED A MAPLE TREE FOR HER.

THE GRAND-DAUGHTER TOLD US...

...I WOULD WANT TO BE IN A ROOM WHERE I COULD SEE THAT MAPLE.

AND SO,

IS IT THAT TREE?

SO, THE ROOM MUST BE ON THIS SIDE.

WITH NOTHING TO LOSE, WE BEGAN LOOKING FOR ROOMS THAT FACED THE MAPLE TREE

HIIRAGI, WAS THERE ANYTHING ON THAT SIDE?

THE MAPLE CAN BE SEEN FROM HERE, BUT IT DOESN'T FEEL LIVED-IN.

I SEE...

MAYBE THIS IS A MISS TOO

AH...

THE MAPLE CAN BE SEEN FROM THE WINDOW. BUT IF THE PEOPLE BEFORE US SEARCHED THIS HARD AND STILL FOUND NOTHING, THEN...

THIS ..... ROOM HAS ALSO BEEN TERRIBLY RUMMAGED..

NAT-SUME?

A SMALL BOX WITH A MAPLE LEAF

...NATORI-SAN, DO YOU KNOW ANYONE IN THIS PICTURE?

HMM... UNFORTU-NATELY, I DON'T.

HOWEVER, THIS MAN WITH THE AWKWARD SMILE...

IS PROBABLY THE MASTER OF THIS PROPERTY.

HEHE, SEEMS LIKE IT... OH.

...AT FIRST, I THOUGHT THIS WAS THE PATTERN OF THE WALLPAPER, BUT IT SEEMS THERE ARE ACTUALLY TWO DRAGONS.

WHAT?

...INCREDIBLE. I CAN ONLY SEE SOME-THING HAZY...

PERHAPS THESE DRAGONS... ARE THE SHIKI.

THEY...

THEY SEEM TO BE PROTECTING HIM IN THE PICTURE.

THE TWO DRAGONS ARE LIGHT BLUE AND... GOLDEN.

DRAGONS, HUH? JUST KNOWING THAT MAKES THE SEARCH WORTH-WHILE.

THERE ARE SPIRITS THAT HIDE IN PICTURES AND ORNAMENTS, YOU KNOW?

LET'S TRY TO SEARCH THE PROPERTY FOR OBJECTS SHAPED LIKE DRAGONS. THEY COULD BE SHIKI.

OKAY!

YOU MEAN ABOUT MY PSEUDONYM, NATSUME? IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME.

...NO, THE *FIFTY-FIFTY* CHANCE.

NATSUME, I SAID THAT EARLIER, BUT...

HUH...?

ALSO HAD ANOTHER SIDE TO HIM, AND HE HELPED CERTAIN PEOPLE WHEN THEY WERE IN DEEP TROUBLE.

I HEARD THIS FROM NANASE-SAN.

IT SEEMS HAKOZAKI-SAN...

...YES.

IF SO, I HAVE A GOOD FEELING ABOUT IT.

A PERSON WHO HAD KINDNESS INSIDE OF HIM.

HE WAS PROBABLY...

ANYTHING OVER THERE, HIRAGI?

NOTHING SPECIAL

I CAN IMAGINE HIM GAZING AT THE MAPLE TREE

IF THAT KIND MAN LIVED IN THIS VAST PROPERTY ALONE...

I SEE...

HIRAGI...

ABOUT THE THING NATSUME SAID HE'D TELL YOU AFTER THE CASE IS SETTLED... IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I HEAR ABOUT IT TOO?

HAHA. WELL, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...

THAT'D BE BETTER THAN TRYING TO SNEAKILY INVESTIGATE.

I WISH I WERE STRONGER.

HEY, SENSEI, ARE YOU REALLY SEARCHING?

SHUT UP! IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU SAYING "NATSUMEG, NATSUMEG" ALL THE TIME THAT I WANT FOOD! NOW, HURRY UP AND FINISH THIS ALREADY!

I WASN'T THE ONE WHO SAID IT!

step step

HEY, IT SEEMS NANASE IS AT THE NORTHERN BUILDING. MAYBE SHE'S FOUND SOMETHING.

step step

!

slowly

sneak

...NANASE-SAN'S THERE? SHOULD WE GO LOOK THERE TOO?

Transcendence

HMM?

THE FEELING. THAT SOMETHING IS DIFFERENT.

SENSEI, DID YOU ALSO SENSE SOMETHING JUST NOW?

...AH.

...HUH? A DOOR? IN A PLACE LIKE THIS..?

NATSUME?

BLINK

WAAAAH!

HMM? IT SEEMS I'VE BEEN DISCOVERED.

SCOUN-DREL.

YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT SMELLS OF THE MASTER...

I WAS INAD-VERTENTLY ATTRACTED TO IT.

HUH...

...OH, PERHAPS IT WAS THE PHOTO.

I'M SORRY FOR TAKING IT WITHOUT PERMISSION.

...

WE FOUND IT AFTER ALL THAT EFFORT, SO I THOUGHT I'D GIVE IT TO HIS GRANDDAUGHTER AFTERWARDS.

ARE YOU... HAKOZAKI-SAN'S SHIKI?

THE LIGHT BLUE DRAGON

OH...

MASTER...

COULD YOU TELL US WHERE IT IS?

...WE'RE LOOKING FOR HAKOZAKI-SAN'S STUDY, THE PLACE HE KEPT HIS RESEARCH DOCUMENTS.

INDEED.

NOW YOU SEEK HIS LIFE'S ACHIEVEMENTS?

I WILL NOT HAND THEM OVER.

.....

AFTER ABANDONING MY MASTER FOR ALL THAT TIME...

HEHE. AS IF I'D TELL YOU.

.....

HE WAS ABANDONED FOR ALL THIS TIME...

...IN OTHER WORDS, THE STUDY ACTUALLY EXISTS.

WE WON'T DO ANYTHING BAD. WON'T YOU TELL US WHERE IT IS?

WAS HAKOZAKI-SAN LONELY IN THIS MANSION?

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.

HE GATHERED AYAKASHI DAY AND NIGHT, AND TOGETHER, WE INDULGED IN MERRYMAKING ALL THE TIME.

HE SUMMONED POWERFUL AYAKASHI, ENGAGING THEM IN UNFAIR CHALLENGES...

AND CHEATED A LARGE AMOUNT OF SAKE FROM THEM...

USING NEW SPELLS,

HE SUMMONED STRANGE AND INTERESTING AYAKASHI...

...AND TOGETHER THEY DANCED MERRILY.

WHEN THE SAKURA IN THE GARDEN WERE IN FULL BLOSSOM,

HE MADE US SHIKI CLEAN UP WHILE HE LAUGHED LOUDLY.

IT WAS A VERY ENJOYABLE TIME.

ENJOYABLE INDEED.

...FOR ALL OF US.

HOWEVER, DESPITE ALL THE MERRI-MENT...

WE THOUGHT THIS WAS AS ENJOYABLE AS IT COULD GET...

WHENEVER MY MASTER HEARD SOUNDS FROM THE ENTRANCE AREA,

HE WOULD FLY THERE STRAIGHT AWAY.

HE WOULD CROUCH AND LOOK TOWARDS THE GATES FROM THE WINDOW...

WHEN HE FOUND NO ONE THERE, HE WOULD SIGH AND STAND BACK UP.

HE WOULD LOOK AT THE RED LEAVES AND SMILE WITH HIS EYES CLOSED,

"SO THIS YEAR THEY'RE NOT COMING EITHER."

IT'S TOO LATE.

I WILL NOT LET YOU PASS.

.....

BEFORE THAT HAP-PENS... IF IT'S POSSI-BLE...

SOON THIS HOUSE WILL BE PASSED ON TO A NEW PROPRIETOR.

.....

IS THIS THE DOOR TO THE STUDY?

COULD YOU LET US THROUGH TO THE STUDY?

I WANT TO ENTRUST THE THINGS THAT HAKOZAKI-SAN CHERISHED TO PEOPLE WHO WILL VALUE THEM.

HAHA, I'M SORRY.

I WAS TAKING OUT MY MY ANGER ON YOU. IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I SPOKE WITH A HUMAN.

MY MASTER'S WILL IS THAT IT STAY CLOSED.

THERE ARE GOOD THINGS IN THERE, BUT THERE ARE ALSO EVIL THINGS.

...I SEE.

NATORI-SAN.

IF YOU DON'T WANT IT TO FALL INTO THE WRONG HANDS, PLEASE LEAVE IT TO US!

...THE MATOBA AND OTHER EXORCISTS WILL NEVER GIVE UP!

!

...I ONLY WISH TO SLEEP ALONG WITH MY MASTER'S MEMORIES IN THIS MANSION.

HOWEVER, IF SOMEONE INVADES AND TRIES TO TAKE HIS WORK, I WILL FEEL NO REGRET...

AND WE WILL TAKE EVERYTHING AWAY.

...BUT SINCE YOU WERE THE FIRST TO FIND ME AT THE FRONT DOOR, I WILL REWARD YOU.

IF YOU FIND ANYTHING LEFT AFTERWARDS, IT WILL BE YOURS.

NA... BUT..

...THAT'S WHAT HE SAID. LET'S GO.

.....

DID YOU KNOW RE:KO-SAN?

IT WAS PROBABLY MY GRAND-MOTHER.

.....

I SUPPOSE THERE REALLY IS SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT YOU...

BOY, I HAVE SEEN SOMEONE WITH A SIMILAR FACE BEFORE.

...NO, IT WAS A MAN.

I FEEL THAT LONG AGO I MET A MAN WITH VERY SIMILAR FEATURES.

NOT REIKO-SAN, BUT A MAN WHO LOOKS LIKE ME?!

A LONG TIME AGO...?

A MAN...?

HUH?

Ba-dump

THUD

?!

WHAT'S THAT NOISE?!

ISN'T IT THE SOUND OF SOMETHING BEING DESTROYED?!

...IT'S OVER THERE. THEY'RE DOING SOMETHING IN THE NORTHERN AREA.

!

I AM THE FRONT DOOR.

IT SEEMS THAT KANEGUMO, THE GUARDIAN OF THE BACK DOOR, HAS ALSO BEEN FOUND. THEY ARE TRYING TO FORCE OPEN THE DOOR.

IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, NANASE-SAN WAS IN THE NORTHERN AREA...

Gasp

sliding

FAREWELL

IF THEY'RE GOING TO TAKE IT, THEN I WILL BRING EVERYTHING WITH ME

Whu

SP

Fwoosh

OH...

Boom

Ha

NATSUME,

THE NORTHERN BUILDING IS IN FLAMES.

WHAT?!

WE MESSED UP

...A FIRE?! HURRY UP, WE HAVE TO PUT IT OUT!

...NO, IT WILL DISAPPEAR MOMENTARILY THE COLOR OF THE FLAMES IS UNUSUAL.

THIS IS THE FIRE OF AN AYAKASHI.

THE BUILDING ITSELF IS NOT BURNING.

WHAT'S BURNING IS...

THAT ANNOYING AYAKASHI...

Toki

...THEY REALLY TOOK IT AWAY.

fall

fall

fall

GOODBYE,

DRAGONS OF HAKOZAKI-SAN

CRACKLE

Fall

IT'S A SHAME I COULDN'T ASK MORE ABOUT THE MAN WHO LOOKED LIKE ME...

Woosh

NATORI,

SHE LEFT LOOKING EXTREMELY DISPLEASED.

THAT'S A WRAP. I'M LEAVING NOW.

WHAT A PITY.

See ya

... WHAT ABOUT NA-NASE-SAN?

AIMIYA-SAN, GOOD WORK.

Fall

IT'S OKAY THAT WE PICKED THEM UP, RIGHT?

NA-TSUME?

Pull

Pull

I PICKED THESE UP, BUT ARE THEY STILL USABLE?

HMMM

.....

HIIRAGI!

URIHIME! SASAKO..!

PICK THOSE UP!

WE'VE GATHERED QUITE A LOT.

YES, SOME OF THEM SEEM TO BE USABLE.

PANT

PANT

PANT

PANT

IT'S BECAUSE WE DID IT TOGETHER.

IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, NA-TSUME.

SHE WAS BAD AT DEALING WITH HUMANS SO SHE WAS ALWAYS INVOLVED WITH AYAKASHI.

...MY GRANDMOTHER WAS CALLED NATSUME REIKO. IT SEEMS SHE HAD STRONG SPIRITUAL POWER.

whoosh

I WAS SOMEHOW CALMING MYSELF DOWN

AND TALKING TO NATORI-SAN

SHE WOULD CHALLENGE SOME, AND WHEN THE AYAKASHI LOST, MAKE THEM WRITE THEIR NAMES ON A PIECE OF PAPER. IT SEEMS SHE COLLECTED THESE.

ABOUT MY GRANDMOTHER

Ba-dump

ABOUT THE BOOK OF FRIENDS

Ba-dump

WHETHER IT WAS GOOD WILL, COINCIDENTAL OR FORBIDDEN...

IT'S MY TREASURE

Ba-dump

THAT I'M THE SOLE PERSON WHO CAN RETURN NAMES...

Ba-dump

.....

...I SEE.

...THE BOOK OF FRIENDS...

HAHA, WHAT AN INTERESTING NAME.

SO YOU'VE BEEN DEALING WITH SUCH A TROUBLESOME THING ALL BY YOURSELF.

...NO,

whoosh

whoosh

whoosh

whoosh

IT'S NOT REALLY TROUBLESOME

IT WOULD BE BETTER IF...

Fwoosh

SUCH A DANGEROUS THING WAS BURNED.

...AH! SENSEI, DON'T PLAY WITH THE PAPER!

NO.

...HUH?

NATORI-SAN, DID YOU SAY ANYTHING?

THE FLAMES WILL PROBABLY DISAPPEAR SOON.

THANK GOOD-NESS...

NATORI-SAN, CAN I GO GIVE THE GRAND-DAUGHTER THIS PHOTO?

...AHH.

YES.

THUS, THE SEARCH ON HAKOZAKI'S PROPERTY CAME TO AN END

IT'S LIKELY THE ONLY THING THAT BURNED WAS THE ROOM THAT EVERYBODY WISHED TO SEE, BUT NOBODY SAW THE PHANTOM STUDY.

THE MYSTERIOUS FLAMES WHICH ENVELOPED THE MANSION DID NOT DAMAGE THE BUILDINGS AT ALL

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

WHO KNOWS? DON'T BE DECEIVED BY HIS SUSPICIOUS-NESS.

I THOUGHT [illegible] QUARRELED ABOUT THE BOOK [illegible] A LITTLE MORE

MY POINTS OF CONCERN HAVE INCREASED

NEVERTHELESS,

I THOUGHT THAT EVERYONE WAS TALKING ABOUT REIKO-SAN

THERE'S A PERSON WHO LOOKS LIKE ME

"A LONG TIME AGO..."

"I MET A MAN WITH VERY SIMILAR FEATURES."

WHY WOULD AN EXORCIST'S DRAGONS

KNOW MY GRANDFATHER ?

NATSUME,

STING

PROBABLY...

MY GRANDFATHER.

I'M HUNGRY! LET'S DASH HOME!!!

HUH?

WHY? YOU SHOULD RUN YOURSELF, SENSEI.

IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT THAT I'M DEAD TIRED.

BUT YOU DID NOTHING, SENSEI!

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夏目友人帳

なつめゆうじんちょう

THE ONE I MET IN THE ENCHANTED FOREST WAS NOT A RABBIT WITH A WATCH. BUT A CAT?

SPECIAL A FRAGMENT OF DREAMS

IF MY FRIENDS FOUND OUT THEY'D DEFINITELY LAUGH AT ME AGAIN

WHY AM I LIKE THIS?

THERE'S NO MISTAKING IT.

IT'S THIS WAY.

Nodding off :)

HAA..

NO WAY! HOW COULD I HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP WHILE EATING MY LUNCH IN THIS FOREST?!

.....

I SUPPOSE THERE'S NO HELPING IT. IT'S ALL BECAUSE I SAW THAT DREAM

I'M A LITTLE SLEEP DEPRIVED

YES, IT'S THIS WAY. THIS WAY.

HUH?

A VOICE?! SOMEONE IS COMING.

Rub Rub

Drool Drool

AS I THOUGHT, IT WAS THIS WAY AFTER ALL— JUST BEYOND THESE BUSHES.

HUH, WHAT?! HE'S COMING THIS WAY?!

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

BUT WHY? WHY DOES IT...

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

SMELL LIKE FRIED PRAWNS IN THIS FOREST?

?!

TH-TH-THE CAT TALKED?!

DARN, I SAID IT TOO CLEARLY TO FUDGE OVER.

.....

WHY A CAT?! TO BEGIN WITH, IS THAT EVEN A CAT? OKAY, CALM DOWN, CALM DOWN...

YES, EXACTLY! THAT'S RIGHT, YOU'RE DREAMING NOW.

THAT'S IMPOSSI-BLE!

...MAYBE I'M STILL DREAMING?

WHU

CALM DOWN!!!

mp

ACK!

Y- YES.

HAVE YOU CALMED DOWN, GIRL?

GASP

I SEE.

THIS IS KIND OF LIKE

THAT'S WHY IT'S COMPLETELY NORMAL FOR A CAT TO TALK.

LISTEN, THIS IS A DREAM, OKAY?

N- NYANKO-SENSEI, WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

IT'S NYANKO-SENSEI.

HEY, KITTY,

IT'S ALICE!

LICE?

ALICE IN WONDER-LAND!!!

N-NO...

HAVE YOU SEEN HIM?

HE'S PALE, SKINNY, HAS A SORRY EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE AND ALWAYS RUNS AWAY.

WHAT A HEAVY TOPIC OUT OF THE BLUE!

I AM A GREAT AYAKASHI WHO IS SERVED BY A HUMAN SLAVE.

WHAT HAVE YOU COME HERE FOR?

HUH?

ANYHOW, THE ENTRANCE TO THIS FOREST SELDOM OPENS.

SINCE WE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO COME IN, WE THOUGHT WE MIGHT AS WELL RETURN A NAME.

AHHHHHH!!!

WELL, I....

WHACK

SEE YA. HURRY ON HOME, GIRL.

STEP

AH!

WH- WHAT WAS THAT SCREAM JUST NOW?

HMM, IT'S COMING FROM OVER THERE, SO IT'S PROBABLY HIM.

HUH?

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

W- WAIT!

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

GASP

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BA DUMP!

.....

slowly open

BADUMP

WHAT?! WHAT?! WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW A MONSTER?! IT COULDN'T BE

BADUMP

CALM DOWN, CALM DOWN

BADUMP

EEEEK?!

Squeeze

Mutter

WAS I JUST OVERWHELMED BY THE ATMOSPHERE HERE ?

Rub

OH, IT WAS JUST MY IMAGINATION...

Rub

.....

Mutter

THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO

DON'T CHICKEN OUT

Rustle

Rustle

Rustle

A PERSON!

PHEW

EXCUSE ME, UMM...

STOP! DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!

QUACK

QUACK

EXCUSE ME!

CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING ABOUT THIS FOREST?

WAAAAAH!

HUH?!

QUACK

HMM? .....

UHHH I'M SORRY..

HUH..?

WELL, OF.

YOU'RE A HUMAN?

Pops up

WHY...

Oh!

NYANKO-SENSEI.

YOU FOLLOWED ME?

WHAT, GIRL?

OF COURSE.

WHY IS A HUMAN GIRL HERE?

KYAA! DON'T PINCH THE KITTY UP LIKE THAT—

A DREAM?!

SHE THINKS THIS IS A DREAM SO IT'LL WORK OUT SOMEHOW.

WHY'RE YOU TALKING TO HER LIKE IT'S A NORMAL THING, SENSEI?!

WELL, IT'S NONE OF YOUR CONCERN.

HMMM?

BESIDES, WHEN IT'S TIME TO LEAVE THIS FOREST...

HMM. THIS FOREST HAS A CONNECTION TO THE SPIRIT WORLD. IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THOSE WHO CAN'T NORMALLY SEE CAN MOMENTARILY DO SO HERE.

I'M SORRY FOR SURPRISING YOU EARLIER LIKE THAT.

I WAS CHASING THE KITTY... I MEAN, NYANKO-SENSEI, EARLIER AND I THOUGHT I SAW A MONSTER FOR A SECOND SO I GOT SCARED...

HUH?

HUH? SEE? SEE WHAT?

SENSEI!

THIS IS A HOLY FOREST SO THOSE OF THE GOD CLASS PROTECT THIS LAND.

RELAX, THERE WON'T BE TOO MANY AGGRESSIVE ONES HERE.

I...I DON'T REALLY GET IT BUT THIS IS AN AMAZING PLACE, ISN'T IT?

THERE AREN'T TOO MANY AGGRESSIVE ONES? I WAS JUST ATTACKED, YOU KNOW.

YOU'RE SPECIAL.

UGH.

I UMM.. I CAN'T GO HOME YET.

HUH?

GASP

ANYWAY, YOU SHOULDN'T STAY IN THIS STRANGE PLACE TOO LONG. I'LL ESCORT YOU TO THE EXIT.

SORRY, BUT I CAN'T... NOT YET.

HEY, HAVE YOU SEEN A WHITE OWL IN THIS FOREST?

IT ASKED ME TO COME HERE.

Transcendence

UMM, SORRY FOR SAYING SOMETHING SO RIDICULOUS...

Ah!

YOU WERE ASKED... BY AN OWL?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IF YOU DON'T MIND, COULD YOU TELL ME MORE?

HUH? NO, YOU'LL LAUGH AT ME...

I WON'T.

CLENCH

.....

A FEW DAYS AGO...

IT HAPPENED WHEN .

I WAS WALKING IN THE SHADOW OF A TREE,

I WAS PASSING BENEATH A LARGE TREE WHEN I THOUGHT I HEARD THE SOUND OF A STRUGGLE ABOVE ME

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

I WAS DETERMINED TO SAVE IT SO...

IN OTHER WORDS... A WHITE OWL WAS CAUGHT IN SOME FISHING WIRE AND HANGING BY IT'S LEG FROM THE TREE BRANCH.

I DIDN'T! I JUST CAN'T GET A GRASP OF YOUR SITUATION.

YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T LAUGH!

Climb

IT WAS PATHET.C, BUT AFTER CLIMBING AND FALL-ING MANY T MES,

Climb

Climb

I SOMEHOW MADE T TO THE BRANCH AND UNTIED THE W RE

W-WAIT FOR ME!

THANK GOODNESS!

JUST WAIT A SEC, I'LL UNTIE THE WIRE FROM YOUR LEG.

.....

Rattle

Rattle

A RING? THE WIRE GOT CAUGHT ONTO THIS, HUH?

CLATTER

!

I GOT IT OFF! THANK GOODNESS.

PAT

OH... YOU HAVE A SCRATCH ON YOUR FORE-HEAD...

WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT MEDICINE? I DON'T THINK THERE'S A VET NEARBY...

Nod

.....

CAN YOU FLY?

FLAP

AHH!

FLAP

HUH?

SQUEEZE

OH...

I'VE BEEN KEEPING HOLD OF IT CAREFULLY, SO I CAN GIVE IT BACK IF I EVER MEET THE OWL AGAIN.

LOOK, THERE'S A PRETTY RED STONE ON IT.

THIS IS THE RING.

IT FLEW AWAY BEFORE I COULD PUT IT BACK ON.

LAST NIGHT, I HAD A DREAM.

AND THEN...

Flap

Flap

Flap

Flap

Flap

Flap

ONE HUNDRED AND THREE STEPS WEST OF THAT TREE,

OH, IT'S THAT OWL.

FORTY STEPS NORTH AND SIXTY-THREE STEPS EAST

KNOCK ON THE OAK AND TAKE THREE STEPS SOUTH

TURN AROUND AND YOU SHALL FIND THE ENTRANCE.

IT'S SAYING SOME-THING.

Gasp

I BEG OF YOU TO COME AND RETURN THE STONE.

I DWELL IN THAT FOREST, AND AM UNABLE TO LEAVE FOR SOME TIME.

JOLT

A DREAM..?

I KNEW IT WAS JUST A DREAM,

BUT WHAT IF THE OWL WAS IN SOME SORT OF TROUBLE BECAUSE OF ME?

THAT'S WHY I MADE A LUNCH TODAY AND BROUGHT THE RING WITH ME.

WHEN I FOLLOWED THE OWL'S INSTRUCTIONS, I CAME HERE.

OH, RIGHT.

THEN I TOOK A BREAK AND MET NYANKO-SENSEI.

WELL, I'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE BUT...

I SEE... AND THE OWL?

EVERYTHING'S JUST BEEN SO MYSTERIOUS...

BUT IT'S REALLY EXCITING AND A LOT OF FUN. I'M DEFINITELY GOING TO RETURN THIS TO THE OWL!

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

TH-THANK YOU! UMM, I'M TAMAMI!

HUH?!

I'M LOOKING FOR THE MASTER OF THIS FOREST

IT'S ON THE WAY, SO I'LL HELP YOU LOOK FOR THE OWL ON THE SIDE.

.....

I'M.. ...

SO WE COULD POTENTIALLY MEET AGAIN? THEN I'LL ASK AGAIN WHEN THAT TIME COMES.

HAHA.

SORRY, I'D RATHER NOT ANSWER.

IF WE HAPPENED TO MEET AGAIN SOMEWHERE, IT'D BE TROU-BLESOME IF YOU KNEW MY NAME.

HE WOULD CALL OUT TOWARDS A TREE'S SHADOW WHEN THERE WAS SEEMINGLY NOTHING THERE.
AND OFTEN FACE THE SKY, NODDING
THAT BOY WAS MYSTER-IOUS
OR ALL OF A SUDDEN GRAB MY HAND AND START RUNNING
TELLING ME IT'S BETTER FOR ME NOT TO SEE
SO, I DID MY BEST AND TRIED NOT TO LOOK
BUT WHENEVER I DID THAT, HE'D MAKE A TROUBLED FACE
WHENEVER I FOLLOWED HIS LINE OF SIGHT AND FOCUSED, I FELT LIKE I COULD ALMOST SEE SOMETHING

HUH?

LOOK... AMONGST THE ROOTS OF THAT BIG TREE.

YES...

HMM

I'M GOING OFF FOR A BIT.

HUH?

SORRY, IT SEEMS I FOUND MY TARGET FIRST.

OKAY. THAT'S GREAT!!!

DO YOUR BEST!

HE HE

IT'S SO PRETTY

OOOH

GOOD JOB GET-TING HERE, GRANDCHILD OF MINE

S

n

a

p

PLEASE ACCEPT IT

I'LL RETURN IT NOW

I'M SORRY FOR HOLDING ON TO YOUR NAME FOR SO LONG.

BLOW

Swirl

Swirl

DO YOU KNOW THE WAY BACK?

YES. UMM..

THAT WOUND ON YOUR FOREHEAD...

WERE YOU BY ANY CHANCE THE OWL WHO CALLED A GIRL OVER TO THIS FOREST?

SHE'S COME TO THE FOREST TO RETURN THE STONE TO YOU.

HOW DO YOU KNOW OF THAT?

IS THAT TRUE? WHAT A RELIEF.

WAS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO DO THAT?

FOR AN AYAKASHI TO CARELESSLY SHOW ITSELF TO A NORMAL HUMAN GIRL AND CALL OUT TO HER IN A DREAM..

HUH?

IT'LL BE FINE AS LONG AS LONG AS SHE RETURNS THE STONE.

IF SHE TELLS ANYONE ABOUT IT, THEY WOULD LOOK AT HER LIKE SHE'S A WEIRDO.

THAT SHE SAVED ME WHEN I WAS IN THE FORM OF AN OWL...

THAT SHE CAME INTO THIS FOREST OF SHADOWS...

I NOW HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE HER FORGET.

THERE IS NO NEED FOR YOU TO WORRY, GRANDCHILD OF REIKO.

SHUDDER

?!

YOU MEAN YOU'LL TAKE AWAY HER MEMORIES...?

SHE WANTED SO DESPERATELY TO RETURN-

IT MAY SEEM LIKE ONLY A MOMENT IN A HUMAN'S LIFE BUT THERE'S NOT A SINGLE MOMENT ANYONE SHOULD BE FORCED TO FORGET.

PLEASE STOP!

SHE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT YOU, SO SHE CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE!!!

IF I AM SEEN BY HUMANS BESIDES PRIEST'S AND PRIESTESS-ES

IN MY POSITION

AND THOSE SUCH AS YOURSELF WHO CAN NATURALLY SEE.

IT'S CUSTOMARY TO TAKE THEM AWAY I CANNOT LET THEM BACK ALIVE.

HOWEVER THIS WAS MY MISTAKE

IN MY STEAD, SHE EVEN BROUGHT THE STONE I DROPPED TO ME.

BECAUSE I HAVE STARTED MY FOREST WITHDRAWAL AND CANNOT COME OUT

I WILL BLOT OUT HER MEMORIES AND RETURN HER HOME

THAT IS THE BEST I CAN DO FOR AN EXCEPTION.

.....

THERE'S A REASON HE CAN'T BEND THE RULES, NATSUME.

BUT...

I MUST RETRIEVE MY STONE.

TRANSFORM

A HUGE MISTAKE.

A MISTAKE,

SORRY, BUT WOULD YOU LEAD THE WAY?

MY EYES ARE RATHER WEAK.

IT WAS OVERFLOWING WITH SHAPES AND COLORS UNBEKNOWNST TO ME.

THE HUMAN WORLD I HADN'T FLOWN TO IN A LONG TIME...

I WAS COMPLETELY DAZED.

WELCOME BACK...

THANK YOU! YOU FOUND HIM FOR ME?!

OH! MR. OWL?!

AHH, I'M SO GLAD I COULD MEET YOU!

IT'S LIKE A DREAM!

IS YOUR WOUND ALL RIGHT?! I'M SORRY! I BROUGHT THE RING WITH ME THOUGH...

THIS IS IT, RIGHT?

EHE.

OKAY, STICK YOUR LEG OUT AND I'LL PUT IT ON FOR YOU NOW.

Peck

Peck

Crack

FALL

AHH! OH GOSH, IT BROKE?!

Carry

CAN I... ..... KEEP THIS SHARD?

FLAP

AH!

...

HEHE...

I'LL TREASURE IT!

THANK YOU!

FLAP

FLAP

SEE YOU LATER, MR. OWL.

THAT VOICE

I FEEL LIKE I KNOW T, BUT I DON'T

IT'S SUCH A SHAME...

THAT I NEED TO MAKE YOU FORGET...

Flap

WE'LL DEFINITELY... MEET AGA—

WHAT IS IT...

I FEEL...

I FEEL LIKE I HAD A VERY PRECIOUS DREAM

HUH?

OH GOSH?! HOW COULD I HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP ON A BENCH AT THE PARK...

AHAHA HAHA...

O-OH NO, I WAS SEEN BY A STRANGER IN SUCH AN EM-BARRASSING STATE...

Wipe Wipe

I WAS DROOLING!

Ah!

GOODBYE...

...

I FEEL KIND OF WARM AND FLUFFY

squeeze

AS IF I'VE BEEN DREAMING

WHAT IS IT

GOOD-BYE...

I WONDER WHAT IT IS...

IT'S VERY...

A STONE?

...

PRETTY...

...

IT'S REALLY BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT?

<END>

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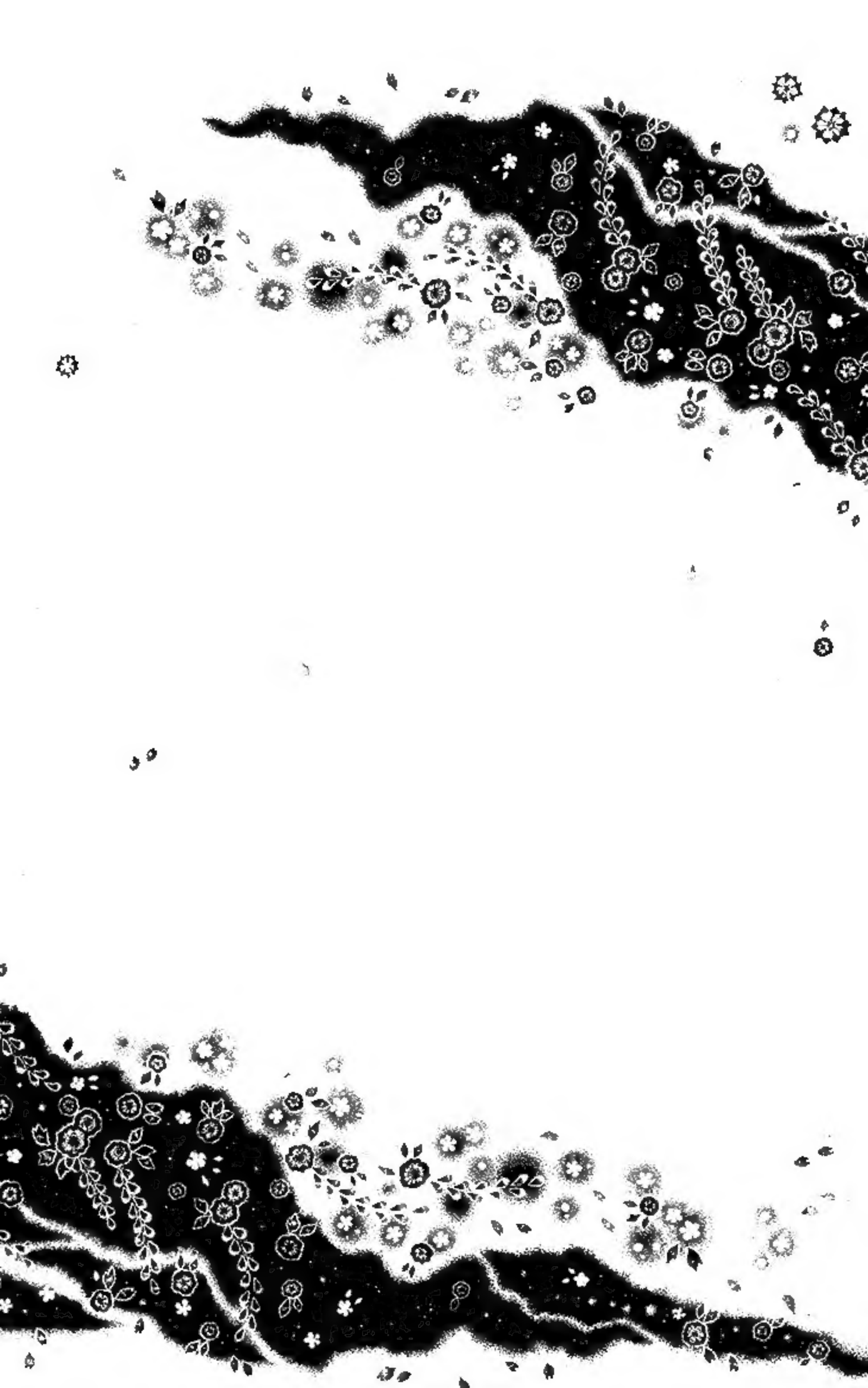

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